

Framework for the Development of a Statewide Strategic Education and Youth Development Plan

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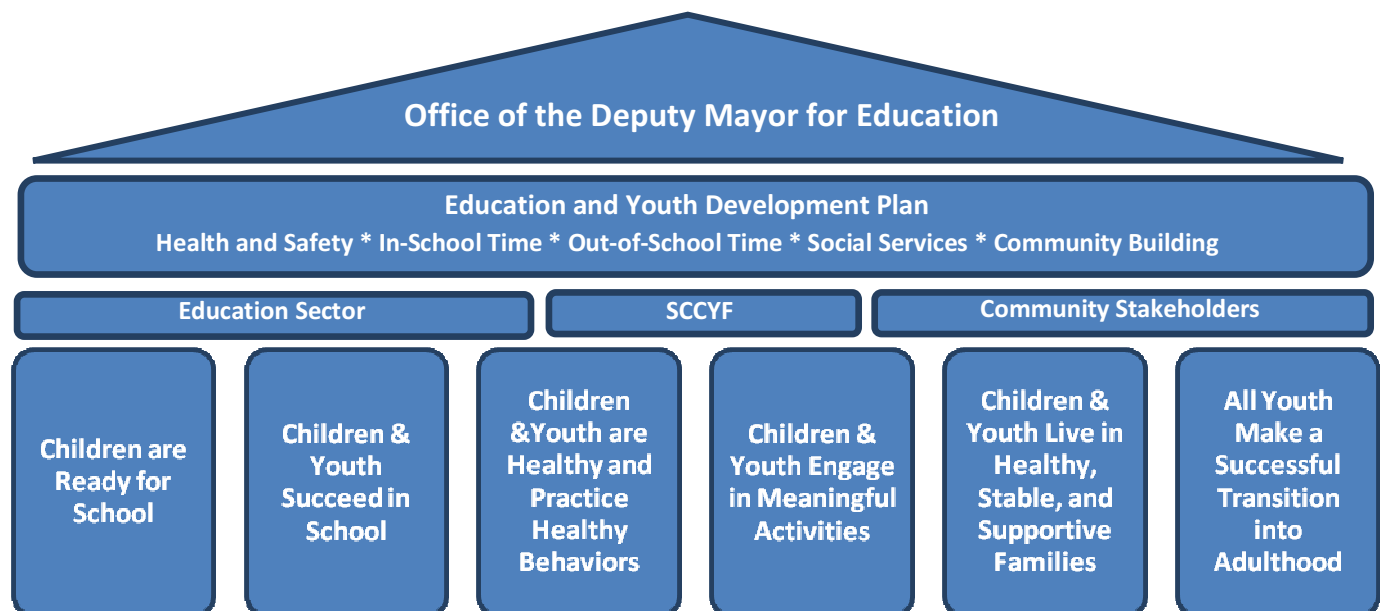
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Framework Development and Guiding Documents

As outlined in the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) has responsibility to “promote, coordinate, and oversee collaborative efforts among District government agencies to support education and child development as it relates to education”.

To meet this charge, the DME has developed a coherent framework aligned to Mayor Fenty’s vision for education reform. Through collaboration among lead and support agencies, coordinated through the DME and in concert with the Statewide Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families (SCCYF), this framework serves as a process outline for the creation of a statewide strategic Education and Youth Development Plan (“EYD plan”). The EYD plan will integrate multiple plans and initiatives across the District; demonstrate synergies between public, private, and non-profit entities; and communicate with the public the Mayor’s vision for enhancing the well-being of children, youth, and families within DC.

Youth development is a broad term that, for purposes of the EYD plan, encapsulates the work undertaken both within and beyond city agencies, in the areas of health and safety, in-school-time, out-of-school time, social services, and community building, as it pertains to children, youth, and their families. The SCCYF is an integral part of the EYD plan, as it serves as a coordinating mechanism for the numerous government agencies charged with ensuring the plan’s priorities are achieved.



The goal of this plan is not to create new agendas for those who are party to the Plan, but rather to identify areas in which enhanced efforts and potential new shared investments can yield results for both the short and long-term. Coordination and integration of this magnitude cannot be shortsighted in its scope, nor can it occur in isolation and irrespective of existing capacity, budget constraints, and other priorities.

Recognizing that significant efforts have already been invested in an array of strategic plans across the various District Government agencies, a primary goal of this process will be to develop recommendations that will identify common areas of alignment, complement established plans and identify gaps where additional policy or regulation may be required.

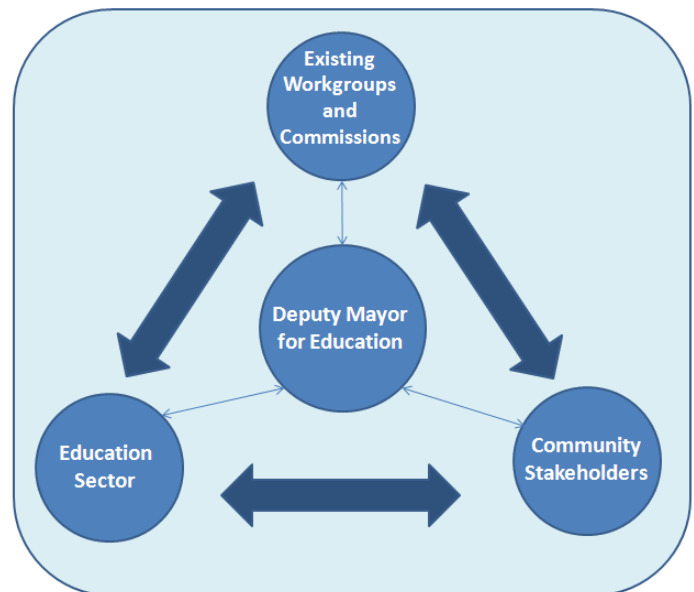
Some of these plans include:

- Child and Family Services Agency 2009 Resource Development Plan
- The Child Health Action Plan, 2008, Department of Health
- DC Public Schools Master Education Plan for a System of Great Schools
- DC Public Schools Master Facilities Plan
- The District of Columbia State-Level Education Strategic Plan, Fiscal Years 2009-2013
- Making Student Achievement the Focus: A five-year action plan for District of Columbia Public Schools
- Race to the Top Application/Implementation Plan
- Workforce Development Plan

Structure, Responsibilities, and Definition of Roles

With the reorganization of the Interagency Collaboration and Services Integration (ICSIC), now SCCYF, the Mayor and Council have reaffirmed their commitment to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to delivering services to improve the lives of children and youth in the District. Wanting to expand this effort and involve additional stakeholders in a manageable way, we have developed a tripod structure to facilitate effective discussion and collaboration among individuals and groups, whose input and contributions will be invaluable to the development of an effective and relevant EYD plan.

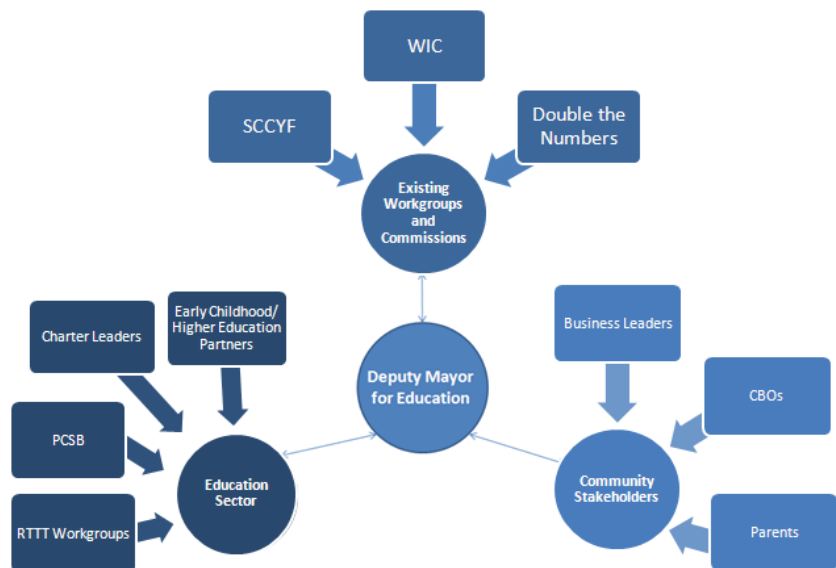
With the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education acting as the hub and binding agent between individuals and workgroups, each branch will engage in a series of dialogues discussing relevant deliverable points, which will then be integrated with discussions within the other branches for additional input or comment. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education will also build off of existing workgroups and commissions in order to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of those currently working to solve the challenges facing children, youth, and their families.



In this manner, efficiency will be maximized, allowing groups to focus on shared issues, without losing sight of the value that can be yielded from other branches of stakeholders.

Identifying Stakeholders and Thought Partners

In addition to working alongside staff and community members of existing workgroups, the DME recognizes the priority of identifying and securing the support and contributions of key stakeholders beyond District Government. These individuals must be representative of the broad spectrum of organizations that interact with and serve the children and families of the District of Columbia. Ensuring that the right people are at the table, with the right balance of experience, knowledge, and perspective, will benefit the discussions while ensuring they remain solutions-focused.



Primary outreach will be to community based organizations (CBOs), parents and care-givers, leaders of civic and philanthropic organizations, advocacy groups, charter schools and charter support organizations, educational policy groups and think tanks. Involving both the private sector and not-for-profits, will ensure the broadest perspective possible is gained, on education and youth development in the District.

Community Input and Engagement

An integral part of the development of an effective and comprehensive EYD plan will be to gather community input and response throughout the development of this document. Community input and feedback will be solicited at three strategic points – to identify needs and wants of stakeholders, to clarify priorities and plans, and to solicit feedback regarding the content of the EYD plan.

The initial community engagement piece will have a strong focus towards understanding the needs of the community and will allow any and all who wish to submit their input, to do so. Town hall meetings will be utilized to develop a list of



concerns and ideas identified by citizens, which will then feed into the initial conversations and agendas. The second round of engagement will focus on prioritization of the key components and facets of the plan. By gathering evidence and comment on pre-identified topics, through targeted focus groups, discussion will be guided towards a deeper level of understanding of the effectiveness

and areas for improvement, in the delivery and availability of services. Evidence, testimony, and surveys will be taken throughout the process as well, to input into discussions and decisions. The final outreach will be forums and small group meetings with community stakeholders, organized to solicit feedback on drafts of the EYD plan.

Goals and Benchmarks for the EYD Development

Ultimately, the goal of this process will be to present a comprehensive, strategic EYD plan, to be presented by the Mayor to the State Board of Education and Council, for review and final approval.

The broad priorities of the process are:

- Review and synthesize existing strategic plans for the District
- Identify gaps/needs within services and between agencies
- Develop recommendations based on discussions and findings
- Create a comprehensive EYD plan that articulates to the public, a unified and clear vision for education in the District

More specifically, the plan development process will encompass:

1. A clearly articulated **vision statement** for children and youth from zero to 24 years of age.
2. **Stated goals and operational priorities** of the EYD plan.
3. An **assessment of needs**, including showing that the strategy is based on research and data.
4. A **timeline and benchmarks** for planning and implementation.
5. An **operational framework that provides for shared accountability**, broad-based civic community involvement, and coordination.
 - a. District, school, and community efforts
 - b. Key stakeholders throughout the community, including those in top public and civic leadership
 - c. Education sector with housing, health, and welfare
 - d. With economic development policies and plans
 - e. Of multiple funding streams to ensure sustainability of the EYD plan
6. An explication of the location and planning, including intended use and design, for the District's educational facilities and campuses.
7. **Recommendations for policy and legislative changes**, if needed, to increase the effectiveness of the EYD plan.

Along the way, benchmarks will be set for stakeholder working groups, to ensure their efforts are focused on delivering valuable discussion and recommendations that will contribute to the final EYD plan. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education will be responsible for the ultimate compilation of the EYD plan, based on the findings of the contributors.

Draft Timeline for the Development of the EYD

Activities	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT
Present Framework to the Council								
EYD Planning Kick-off								
Establish EYD Workgroups								
Secure stakeholders for workgroup								
Workgroup meetings								
Finalize structure/responsibilities of groups								
Review and Synthesize Existing Materials								
Set performance benchmarks								
Collect and review data/evidence								
Synthesis/presentation of initial findings								
Community engagement meetings								
Prioritize tasks /deliverables within groups								
Begin Collating and Drafting								
Outlines submitted for deliverables								
Draft vetting and refinement of proposal								
Presentation of draft EYD to the DME								
EYD Plan to the Council, SBOE, DME								
Milestones			Initial Findings		Delegate Work for Draft		Refine Draft	Submit Plan to Council